

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 195055
ORIGIN AF-10

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TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PEPR, SHUM, GB, DM

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE ON BENINESE REPATRIA-
TION

REFS: A) LIBREVILLE 2103; B) STATE 189801

1. AS REQUESTED REFTEL DEPARTMENT IS PROVIDING SUPPLEMEN-
TARY PRESS GUIDANCE FOR YOUR USE IF REQUIRED. THUS FAR,
DESK HAS DETECTED LITTLE MEDIA INTEREST IN BENINESE ISSUE.

2. Q: IS THE USG INVOLVED IN THE REPATRIATION OF BENIN-
ESE CITIZENS FROM GABON?

A: NO, THE UNITED STATES IS NOT INVOLVED.

WE FRANKLY DO NOT WISH TO BECOME INVOLVED IN A DISPUTE
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PAGE 02 STATE 195055

BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. IN CONFORMITY WITH OUR BASIC
POLICY FOR AFRICA, WE CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT PROBLEMS CAN
BE RESOLVED BETWEEN OUR AFRICAN FRIENDS THEMSELVES.

Q: HAS THE GABONESE GOVERNMENT SOLICITED AMERICAN ASSIS-
TANCE IN RETURNING THE BENINESE TO BENIN.

A: YES, AND WE HAVE INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT OF GABON THAT

WE DO NOT INTEND TO BECOME INVOLVED.

(IF ASKED)

Q: IS THE U.S. CONCERNED THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE
BENINESE ARE BEING VIOLATED?

A: WE ARE CONCERNED WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS
OF THIS EXPULSION AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LED TO IT.
WE HOPE THAT COUNTRIES WOULD REFRAIN FROM PENALIZING IN-
DIVIDUAL NATIONALS OF OTHER COUNTRIES WITH WHICH THEY
HAVE DISPUTES. SUCH CONCERNS WERE STRONG ELEMENTS IN OUR
DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN A REPATRIATION EFFORT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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